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Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-11 remain in the application. Claims 12-25 have been withdrawn. Of the elected claims 1-11, directed to the apparatus, claims 1 and 4 were rejected as being unpatentable over the Hobgood reference; claim 3 was allowed; and claims 5-11 were objected to as being dependent, directly or indirectly, on a rejected claim.

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This is in reference to the rejection of claims 1 and 4 as being unpatentable over the Hobgood reference. The Examiner notes that although the Hobgood reference does not teach using a pump at the inlet of the flow through tube, placing a pump at the inlet to push air through the tube is equivalent to pulling air through the tube by placing the pump at the outlet of the tube. Therefore, the Examiner considers that it would have been obvious to modify the Hobgood apparatus to use a pump at the inlet and the outlet of the chamber in order to provide a more efficient air flow through the chamber.

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Whether the apparatus has a pump at the inlet and the outlet is an issue that is not the most important one although there is no need to have a pump at the inlet to push air through the apparatus in order to create turbulence in the incoming air sample when the sample is directed substantially perpendicularly to the surface of the chemoselective material which forms a part of the sensing element. Of more significance here, it is believed, is the subject matter introduced into the claims by this amendment. Claim 1 has been amended to include a scrubber for removing the analyte from ambient air and structure for restoring baseline condition of the sensing element. Claim 4 has also been amended to include a scrubber to remove the analyte from ambient air, structure necessary to restore baseline condition of the sensing element, and details pertaining to the sensing elements.

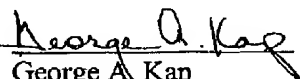
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1 It is believed that claims 1 and 4, in their amended condition, are unobvious over the
Hobgood reference which does not even disclose anything resembling a scrubber for removing an
analyte nor the structure for restoring baseline condition of the sensing element nor the details
pertaining to the sensing element.

Since it is believed that claims 1 and 4 are now allowable, it is requested that this
6 application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

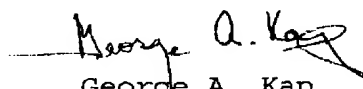

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Fax Certification

16 I hereby certify that this document is being faxed to the
PTO on the date shown below:

21 June 24, 2004
Date


George A. Kap